

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/NIH/SFCP PROPOSAL 01-125-N, EPIDEMIOLO-
GICAL STUDIES IN STROKES IN YOUNG, GOPALAN/MILLIKAN

REFERENCES (A) STATE 240736; (B) LETTER DATED MARCH 2 FROM
SCIATT TO JONES, NIH/FIC

PASS TO SCIATT CLIFTON METZNER

1. GOPALAN'S REACTION, REPORTED REFLET (B), TO NIH STUDY
SECTION RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE SUPPORT OF SUBJECT PROJECT
TO ONE HALF THE TIME AND AMOUNT REQUESTED PRESENTS A
DILEMMA TO NIH. SUCH A RECOMMENDATION CAN BE REALISTICALLY
IMPLEMENTED DOMESTICALLY IN THE REGULAR RESEARCH GRANT
PROGRAM WHERE COMMUNICATIONS ARE DIRECT AND SIMPLE. NIH,
HOWEVER, RECOGNIZES THAT UNFORTUNATELY SUCH A RECOMMENDA-
TION DOES NOT GIVE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION TO THE ADMINISTRA-
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TIVE COMPLEXITIES AND EXTRA SCIENTIFIC FACTORS INHERENT IN
A COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY AGREEMENT FOR A RESEARCH COLLABORATION.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS STUDY SECTION RECOMMENDATION
OBVIOUSLY SUBJECTS THE PROJECT A SECOND TIME TO THE
PROBLEMS AND DELAYS INCIDENT TO OBTAINING REQUIRED INDIAN
SIGNATURES ON AN AMENDMENT FOR CONTINUATION OF THE STUDY.

THE RECOMMENDATION DOES NOT ACCOMMODATE FOR CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN THE ICMR WHO MUST SIGN THE AMENDMENT FOR CONTINUATIONEIGHTEEN MONTHS FROM NOW, POSSIBLE CHANGES IN PRIORITIES OF THE MOH, OR CHANGES IN GOI POLICY CONCERNING COLLABORATION. IN ADDITION, THERE IS ALWAYS AN ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THE APPROPRIATION.

3. AS A HEDGE AGAINST SUCH AFOREMENTIONED EVENTUALITIES, REVIEW GROUPS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RECEPTIVE TO NIH OBLIGATING ITS "NO YEAR" FUNDS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF A PROJECT TO ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, REGARDLESS OF APPROPRIATION PROBLEMS DURING THE COURSE OF A PROJECT, FOR ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT UPON RECEIPT OF PROGRESS AND FISCAL REPORTS AS EVIDENCE OF SATISFACTORY PROGRESS. ALL RESEARCH AGREEMENTS INCLUDE THE STANDARD AGREEMENT CLAUSE WHICH PROVIDES FOR TERMINATING A PROJECT AT ANY TIME BY MUTUAL CONSENT OR UNILATERALLY WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE BY EITHER PARTY. THIS CLAUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCEPTED AS ADEQUATE PROTECTION, IN THE EVENT PROBLEMS DEVELOP WHICH INTERFERE WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT, OR TO PROVIDE FOR A QUALIFIED TECHNICAL MERIT REVIEW RECOMMENDATION.

4. THE CONSULTANTS WHO REVIEWED SUBJECT PROJECT WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY AND DID NOT CONSIDER OTHER FACTORS WHICH ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVE CONDUCT OF THE STUDY. ALTHOUGH THIS IS AN UNPRECEDENTED RECOMMENDATION, IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRAM NIH HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CARRY OUT THE INTENT OF THE CONSULTANTS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

5. REFLET WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WITH DR. TOWER, DIRECTOR, NINCDS, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR AFRICA, WHERE HE EXPECTS TO MEET DALAL, A PARTICIPANT IN SUBJECT PROJECT. NINCDS IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN EXPEDITING THE PROJECT BEFORE THE OPPORTUNITY IS LOST.

6. IN RESPONSE TO GOPALAN'S OBJECTIONS, NIH CAN MODIFY ITS POSITION AND CONCUR IN AN AGREEMENT WITH A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS IN THE AMOUNT OF 747,074 RUPEES FOR AN 18-MONTH FEASIBILITY STUDY, WITH A PROVISIO THAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS CONTINGENT UPON ANALYSIS OF THE DATA DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FAVORABLE REVIEW OF DATA AND PROTOCOL REVISIONS AS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL (A). EMBASSY REQUESTED REPORT TO NIH GOPALAN'S REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.
CHRISTOPHER

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